

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/797,110

ART UNIT 2821
Q80389

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are all the presently pending claims.

The claim objections and rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are believed to be overcome by the foregoing amendments.

Specifically, the Examiner is correct that the “threshold” in claims 4 and 11 is the same threshold in claims 1 and 8, respectively, from which claims 4 and 11 depend. The same is true for claims 2 and 9. As for the objection to claim 8, lines 3 and 17, the foregoing amendments to claim 8 are intended to more clearly recite the configuration of the headlamp, namely, that it includes at least one lamp unit and an auxiliary lamp. However, the recitation of “a light source” in line 17 is believed to be proper, as that is the first occurrence of the term. Applicants note that the Examiner did not object to the same phrase in claim 1.

Regarding the Examiner’s comments in the first full paragraph at the top of page 3 of the Office Action, Applicants submit that this language is clear that the dimming unit controls at least one of the lamp unit(s), and/or the auxiliary lamp. That language “at least one of the at least one lamp unit” is simply intended to make it clear that it is sufficient if only one (or more) of plural lamp units are controlled by the dimming unit.

Turning next to the prior art rejections, independent claims 1, 8 and 15 are each hereby amended to recite that the dimming control decreases the effective value of the voltage applied to the light source to a threshold value “over a predetermined period of time.” None of the cited

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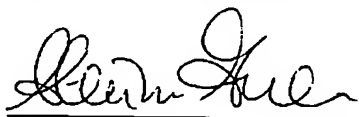
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references teaches or suggests such a feature. Moreover, claims 2 and 9, which recite a period of about one to two seconds, were not rejected over prior art and, thus, those dependent claims are believed to be separately patentable.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue/Publication Fees) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any over-payments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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